Approved For Release 2005/12/05 : CIA-RDP80-00810A003300210007-5

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CLASSIFICATION SECRET/

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Gera

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 16 December 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 15 November 1953, The Reuss Kaserne , Gera, was occupied by about 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. Between 10 and 15 November, about 150 troops were daily trucked to the artillery firing range near the Milbitz hospital. The troops were equipped with shovels and hoes. It was rumored that the training area was to be enlarged.

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2. On 15 November, the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz was occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia.
25X1 On 14 November, about 80 troops with motor transport insignia and baggage were seen
25X1 leaving the Gera railroad station at about 8 a.m.; about 80 troops which,
25X1 were recruits were detrained there at about 4 p.m. At about 4 p.m. on 15
25X1 November, about 80 troops with baggage were entrained at the Gera railroad station.

3. On 16 November, the Reuss Kaserne was occupied by about 2,500 to 3,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, signal and motor transport insignia. On 13 November, about 120 troops received basic training, about 30 troops received instruction on 3 x 100-mm AT guns and about 20 men were working on about 10 trucks in the barracks yard. Motor vehicles seen en route to and from the installation
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4. On 21 November, the Reuss Kaserne was occupied by about 3,800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, motor transport and tank insignia. On 8 November, about 1,500 troops had fallen in for a roll call in the barracks yard while about 180 officers, including 1 colonel, 3 lieutenant colonels and 22 majors, left the installation. The troops participated in all SED ceremonies. On 17 and 21 November, about 50 to 80 troops were drilling and other soldiers received theoretical instruction. Between 17 and 21 November, trucks occupied by troops with entrenching tools were continually leaving the barracks installation.
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5. On 21 November, the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz was occupied by about 800 to 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. [redacted] troops were employed in the construction of a training ground in the Neubreitenbach area. At about 2 p.m. on 17 November, about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and carrying entrenching tools arrived at the Gera railroad station. Truck [redacted] shuttled the troops to the installation. On 8 November, about 530 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia left the installation to participate in the ceremonies commemorating the revolution. Motor vehicles [redacted] picked up drunken soldiers and hauled them to the two installations.

[redacted] Comment. The 303th Arty Brig (US) is again confirmed in the Reuss Kaserne until 21 November 1953 [redacted] Worth noting are the high strength estimates [redacted] of paragraphs 3, 4, and 5, and the field grade officers reported [redacted] The brigade is believed to number not more than 1,500 troops. There are no other indications for the presence in the installation of other units. [redacted] . The artillery firing range [redacted] of paragraphs 1 to 2 is located west of Tinz, Neubreitenbach is mentioned for the first time.

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